

## Contributions of Southeast Asia's livestock sector to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

*More than 60 livestock experts from seven Southeast Asian countries met to explore new opportunities for bringing the countries and agencies of the region together in productive joint actions to focus on the highest priorities of the livestock sector.*

They participated in the Science and Partnership Workshop 2017 on 'The role of livestock in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in Southeast Asia,' which was held 16 November 2017 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Participants explored how the livestock sector can contribute towards the development priorities for each country and the region as a whole,

and what the role of research is to address such opportunities.

The workshop led to the identification of collaboration and partnership opportunities to unlock the livestock sector's potential contributions to the achievement of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Bright spots, hotspots and emerging issues for the livestock sector were highlighted in the opening sessions of the workshop. Participants also reviewed the status of particularly promising livestock pathways to more sustainable and equitable prosperity in the region.

The workshop was hosted by Vietnam's National Institute of Animal Science with technical and financial support from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).



### Welcome to the second edition of ILRI East and Southeast Asia newsletter!

We hope to share a newsletter with you every six months to give you, our donors, partners and colleagues timely updates on ILRI's ongoing research activities, news and events in the region. I hope you will enjoy reading it and thank you for supporting ILRI East and Southeast Asia over the past years and in future.

Learn more about our work at [www.asia.ilri.org](http://www.asia.ilri.org). If you have any feedback please contact [ilri-vietnam@cgiar.org](mailto:ilri-vietnam@cgiar.org).

**Hung Nguyen-Viet**  
ILRI regional representative  
for East and Southeast Asia



Photo credit: ILRI/Chi Nguyen

## Institutional updates

### ILRI assistant director general visits Beijing joint lab

The Beijing joint lab on Livestock and Forage Genetic Resources within the Institute of Animal Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IAS-CAAS) hosted a visit by Dieter Schillinger, assistant director general of ILRI on 17 October 2017. He met with Jie Wen, deputy director general of IAS-CAAS to discuss opportunities for strengthening the research partnership between the two organizations. A new lab with state-of-the-art facilities was just built in the city to continue serving the research platform by building biotechnology as well as genetics research capacity in the region. An agreement to extend operations of the joint lab was signed on 22 November 2017.

### Vietnam agriculture officials and CGIAR draw up priorities for joint research in 2018-2020

On 27 October 2017, the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and CGIAR discussed research and development plans for the country's agricultural sector including possible areas of cooperation for 2018–2020.

### ILRI signs agreements with partners from Laos and Cambodia

On 17 November 2017, Jimmy Smith, director general of ILRI, signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with the National University of Laos and two partners from Cambodia – the National Animal Health and Production Research Institute and the Centre for Livestock and Agriculture Development – to start formal collaboration between them and ILRI to strengthen livestock research for development in Southeast Asia.



Jimmy Smith (right), ILRI general director and Oudom Phonekhampheng (left), vice president of National University of Laos, signed an MoU at ILRI Hanoi office (photo credit: ILRI/Chi Nguyen).

## Project updates

### Hanoi workshop on providing safer pork products

Pork makes up 75% of the meat consumed in Vietnam. Most of it comes from small-scale farmers through traditional open markets. Ensuring its safety is a matter of growing public interest. More than 80 key stakeholders attended the launch of a new project called 'SafePORK' which is funded by the Australian Centre for International **Agricultural Research**.

### New project to strengthen food safety



The SafePORK project will seek out niche markets for the indigenous pigs in Hoa Binh Province of Vietnam to generate more income for local farmers (photo credit: ILRI/Hanh Le).

### in Cambodia

A new initiative to improve food safety known as Safe Food, Fair Food (SFFF) for Cambodia project, was launched in Phnom Penh on 29 September 2017. The four-year SFFF for Cambodia project will generate evidence on the health and economic burden of food-borne diseases in animal source food value chains important to the poor and women, and it will pilot a market-based approach for improving food safety that builds on successful projects in Africa and India. The project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems.



Pork being roasted with a gas burner in the market in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (photo credit: ILRI/ Fred Unger).



## One Health research partnership on food safety in Laos

On 18–19 December 2017, ILRI scientists Fred Unger and Hung Nguyen visited Champasak Province and Vientiane, in Laos, as part of new research partnership on food-borne diseases between ILRI and the National University of Laos. The research results are expected to be released in March 2018. Courtesy visits to the National University of Laos and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute of Laos will be used as the basis to further identify and prioritize research topics on food safety under the CGIAR research programs on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) and Livestock Agri-food Systems.

## Vietnam-based project to design key maps and tools for managing climate-sensitive diseases

On 22 December 2017, animal and human health experts gathered in Hanoi to discuss ways of disseminating the findings and recommendations of a 'Surveillance and early-warning systems for climate-sensitive diseases in Vietnam and Laos', or Pestforecast project. Key tools include a set of risk maps of CSD and a web-based tool for forecasting disease incidences considering meteorological and environmental factors that influence CSD risks.

## Capacity development

### Tata Trusts team visit to ILRI Vietnam opens door for cooperation in pig production

A study tour from 24–30 July 2017 by nine project officers from Tata Trusts (India) provided a unique opportunity for the Tata Trusts team to interact with researchers in Vietnam and discuss ways of strengthening pig production in the two countries.

### University of Melbourne students learn use of One Health approaches from ILRI researchers

A group of students from the University of Melbourne, School of Veterinary Sciences participated in a two-week internship with ILRI in Vietnam to learn about the use of One Health approaches in livestock and food safety research, policy, and practice.



The group of students from Melbourne University visited pig farms in Hung Yen province, Vietnam (photo credit: ILRI/Chi Nguyen).

## ILRI-China joint lab trains students from Iran and Pakistan

The Institute of Animal Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IAS CAAS)-ILRI Beijing joint lab hosted Mostafa Rafiepour from the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute of Iran (from June to September 2017) and Qurat ul Ain Hanif, from the Environmental Biotechnology Division, National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Pakistan (since September 2017 till now). Rafiepour was trained in the 'Genomic characterization of indigenous Iranian buffaloes', and Hanif has been working on a collaborative project 'Identification and characterization of genetic molecular markers in economically important traits in indigenous cattle breeds in Pakistan'. The two students are supported by the National Natural Science Foundation project on buffalo genome which is jointly led by China Agricultural University and ILRI.

## Recent publications

Following are some recent publications of ILRI East and Southeast Asia. To see the full list, please visit our webpage at [www.asia.ilri.org](http://www.asia.ilri.org)

- **Rich, K.M.**, Dizyee, K., Huyen N.T.T., Ha D.N., Hung P.V., Nga N.T.D., **Unger, F.** and **Lapar, M.L.** 2017. Quantitative value chain approaches for animal health and food safety. *Food Microbiology*.
- **Lee, H. S., Nguyen-Viet, H.**, Lee, M., Duc, P. P. and **Grace, D.** 2017. Seasonality of viral encephalitis and associated environmental risk factors in Son La and Thai Binh provinces in Vietnam from 2004 to 2013. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* 96(1): 110–117.
- **Lee, H. S., Lindahl, J., Nguyen-Viet, H.**, Khong, N.V., Nghia, V.B., Xuan, H.N. and **Grace, D.** 2017. An investigation into aflatoxin M1 in slaughtered fattening pigs and awareness of aflatoxins in Vietnam. *BMC Veterinary Research* 13(1): 363.
- Minh, H. V., Dung, D. V., **Nguyen-Viet, H.** and Sankoh, O. 2017. Health and health care transitions in Vietnam: Evidence from the CHILILAB Health and Demographic Surveillance System (CHILILAB HDSS). *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health* Vol. 29 (5S): 6S–8S.
- Ngan T.T., Dang-Xuan, S., **Unger, F.**, Barot, M., **Nguyen-Viet, H.**, Hung P.V., **Grace, D.** and Pham-Duc, P. 2017. Exposure assessment of Salmonella related to pork handling and consumption at households in Hung Yen and Nghe An provinces. *Vietnam Journal of Public Health* 4(2): 26–33.
- He, X., Chen, X., Zhang, W., Pu, Y., Song, S., **Han, J.L.**, Dong, K., Zhao, Q., Guan, W., Ma, Y. and Jiang, L. 2017. High occurrence of length heteroplasmy in domestic Bactrian camel (*Camelus bactrianus*). *Mitochondrial DNA Part A* 28: 851–854.
- Zhao, Y.X., Yang J., Lv, F.H., Hu, X.J., Xie, X.L., Zhang, M., Li, W. R., Liu, M. J., Wang, Y.T., Li, J. Q., Liu, Y.G., Ren, Y.L., Wang, F., Hehua, E., Kantanen, J., Lenstra, J. A., **Han, J.L.** and Li, M.H. 2017. Genomic reconstruction of the history of native sheep reveals the peopling patterns of nomads and the expansion of early pastoralism in East Asia. *Mol Biol Evol.* 34(9): 2380–2395.

## Staff updates

We welcome the following staff:

- **Karl Rich** was appointed principal scientist starting in August 2017. He is based in Hanoi.
- **Xinzheng Jia** joined ILRI in China as a postdoctoral researcher in August 2017.
- Nguyen Tien Thang and **Pham Thanh Long** were appointed PhD graduate fellows for the 'Metropolitan mosquitoes' project starting in January 2018.

## New projects

- Metropolitan mosquitoes: Understanding urban livestock keeping and vector-borne disease in growing tropical cities, funded by Swedish Link Research (2018–2021)
- Man's best friend: A cross-border transdisciplinary One Health approach to rabies control in dogs in Southeast Asia funded by Swedish Link Research (2018-2020)
- Safer indigenous pork and healthier ethnic minorities in Vietnam through better management of parasitic pig-borne diseases, funded by BMZ, Germany (2018- 2019)
- New grant from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) for the CAAS-ILRI joint lab in China (2018-2020)
- VIDA-PIG: Health and antibiotics in Vietnamese pig production (2018-2020)

Contact us at [ilri-vietnam@cgiar.org](mailto:ilri-vietnam@cgiar.org)



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works to improve food and nutritional security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock. Co-hosted by Kenya and Ethiopia, it has regional or country offices and projects in East, South and Southeast Asia as well as Central, East, Southern and West Africa. [ilri.org](http://ilri.org)



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